

# The Sydney Morning Herald.

No. 14,454.

SYDNEY, THURSDAY, JULY 24, 1884.

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**Births.**

**SCHOTT.**—June 27, at Tenterfield, St. Leonards, the wife of J. P. Abbott, of a daughter.  
**BONTON.**—July 14, at her residence, King-street, Newtown, Mrs. J. P. Abbott, of a daughter.  
**BOWLER.**—July 12, at her residence, Grosvenor-terrace, Point Piper-road, Woollahra, the wife of Samuel Bowles, of a daughter.  
**COOPER.**—July 22, at Hobart-street, Glebe-park-terrace, the wife of James (late of a son).

**MATTHEW.**—July 23, at 10, Kent-street, Darlinghurst, the wife of George F. Mathew, R.N., H.M.S. *Esopus*, of a daughter.  
**MCNAUL.**—July 10, at 10, Pitt-street, Goulburn, Mrs. D. Doon, a daughter.

**MORGAN.**—July 10, at Whaling-road, North Shore, Mrs. James A. Morgan, of a daughter.

**ROBERTSON.**—July 12, at the Parsonage, Beresford-street, Paddington, N.S.W., the wife of Rev. J. Robertson, of a son.

**MARRIAGES.**

**ASCHER.**—LOUIS E., 1884, by Registrar, at Belgrave, G. Arthur, Esq., and his daughter, the wife of J. P. Abbott, of a daughter.

**ATKIN-MAGNA.**—July 17, at St. Adalbert's, Blackheath, by the Rev. E. Symonds, the wife of Alfred H. Atkins, of a daughter.

**BURNS-WALL.**—July 19, at the residence of the bride, by the Rev. R. Collier, F.R.S., Joseph Burns, of Orange, to Mary, fifth daughter of the late Thomas Wall, of Windsor, New South Wales.

**POWELL-FOWLER.**—July 18, at St. Barnabas' Church, by the Rev. C. H. Ghosh, Canon, youngest son of William Powell, of Petersham, and Emily, youngest daughter of the late Rev. J. C. Ghosh.

**DUGLE-NEVELL.**—June 23, at Cobham, by the Rev. F. Colwell, Andrew Curzon, only son of Rev. Jno. Ingle, M.A., of Exeter, English Church, and Emily, youngest daughter of James V. Curzon, of Cobham, in this colony.

**KENNY-OATLEY.**—July 16, at St. David's, Belgrave, son of the Rev. J. Harvey, Rev. Edward Haller, one of the late Henry Kenny, and Emily, daughter of Frederick Kenny, of Sandy Knowe, Woollahra.

**KENNETT-OATLEY.**—July 16, at St. David's Church, by the Rev. J. Harvey, Rev. Edward Haller, son of the late Henry Kenny, and Emily, daughter of Frederick Kenny, of Sandy Knowe, Woollahra.

**LEWIS.**—July 16, at St. Barnabas' Church, by the Rev. F. Colwell, Andrew Curzon, only son of Rev. Jno. Ingle, M.A., of Exeter, English Church, and Emily, youngest daughter of James V. Curzon, of Cobham, in this colony.

**PEERLESS.**—July 22, at Burwood, the Rev. George Thomas Keeble, Woollahra minister, England.

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## PARLIAMENT OF NEW SOUTH WALES.

## LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 23.

The PRESIDENT took the chair at half-past 4 o'clock.

## BILLS ASSENTED TO.

Mr. PRESIDENT reported the receipt of messages from Mr. Abbott, the Governor of New Guinea, giving Royal Assent to the following bills:—1. Royal Assent in the name of her Majesty to the following bills:—(a) International Conditional Purchases Decree Bill; Temporary Supply Bill; Sydney Corporation Act Amendment Bill; District Courts Act; Further Amendment Bill; Oyster Fisheries Act Amendment Bill; Hobsons Bay Church Lands Sale Bill; Tamworth Cattle Saleyards Bill; and O'Dowd's Estate Leasing Bill.

## ENGINEERING ASSOCIATION INCORPORATION BILL.

Mr. PRESIDENT announced the receipt of a message from the Legislative Assembly stating that the amendments made by the Council in the Engineering Association Incorporation Bill had been agreed to by that House.

## IMPORTED STOCK ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

Mr. PRESIDENT announced the receipt of a message from the Legislative Assembly forwarded the Imported Stock Act Amendment Bill for the consideration and concurrence of the Council.

Mr. DALLEY moved that the bill be read the first time.

The motion was agreed to.

PAPERS.

Mr. DALLEY laid on the table of the House a copy of amended laws for the municipal district of Ryde, and for the borough of Wollongong.

## VICTORIAN COAL-MINING COMPANY'S BILL.

Mr. JACOB moved the third reading of the Victorian Coal-mining Company's Bill.

The motion was agreed to, and the bill was passed, and it was ordered to be sent to the returned to the Legislative Assembly with the usual message.

## MINING ACT FURTHER AMENDMENT BILL.

Mr. DALLEY said, in moving the second reading of this bill, he would point out that under section 4 of the Crown Lands Alienation Act of 1861, enormous areas of land had been reserved for the purposes of mining or as mining reserves. In a single district of the colony, that of New England, some 1200 square miles of reserves had been made out of the land.

He had, however, on the 1st of October, 1870, made out whether such reserves were contemplated by the terms of that section, and the Deputy Surveyor-General and the Minister for Lands, and, he thought, also the Attorney-General at that time, expressed their views on the question, and favoured the idea that the mining of the land should be restricted to the surface.

On the 1st of May last he (Mr. Dalley) had advised in the matter, and intimated that in his opinion the public purposes contemplated by the section were necessary of the same kind as those specifically mentioned, namely, sites for stores, depots, and workshops, and that it was impossible to do certain things without federalisation, proceeded to say:

"At the expedients which have from time to time been suggested or attempted, to mitigate the inconveniences to which you are exposed on the border, have failed, as I maintained, to meet the natural consequences of dividing a colony which is physically one into separate autonomous sections by means of mere arbitrary geographical lines of demarcation.

The case is one which cannot be satisfactorily met by any empirical partition, and that one effect of which is to cause a certain uneasiness, the settling out of which is a continual source of trouble.

Mr. Jervois had spoken strongly on the subject, and had pointed out that such places should be well fortified and protected by a general combination.

These two subjects should not have been omitted from the resolution, as they had been well considered, and had enabled them to secure the position they now occupied.

Such a resolution was unnecessary, but, as far as I can see, it would be interesting to know what was to be done towards establishing and maintaining fortifications.

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Mr. Jervois had spoken strongly on the subject, and he had pointed out that such places should be well fortified and protected by a general combination.





The real difficulties of the intending squatter lay in the slowness of the survey, and in the difficulty of beating the capitalist in the auction mart. If good surveyed land could have been had for £1 an acre, on condition of occupation and improvements, all the actual demand would have been satisfied, and this condition would have been met if suitable agricultural areas had been surveyed and thrown open, and the squatter cleared off. The serious complaint came from people who were ready with their money, and who could not exchange it for land.

More than was wanted, however, was granted, and two consequences flowed from reducing the cash payments to five shillings, neither of which has proved to the advantage of the country. The first has been that people have been tempted to try their fortunes prematurely in taking up land. They have been without any of the necessary capital, which has generally been the consequence of their being without either skill or frugality, and in many cases they have actually borrowed the small sum necessary for a first deposit. As a rule these people have wasted their labour, and then sold out to a squatter, thus fastening a rich man on the books of the Land Department, as a perpetual debtor.

There is one class of men who have successfully taken up land even without any money to start with, and that consists of hard-working men who have been able to earn wages, and so support themselves and their families, giving such odd time as they could command for putting their own little freeholds into shape. Teamsters, splitters, fencers, sawyers, shearers, and others of this class who found sufficient occupation to keep them going during a part of the year, and who have attended to their selections during the other part, have made homes, and there have been many instances of success in this way. But men who without any money to start with tried to live as free selectors from the first, have nearly all failed, and the failures count by the thousand. The country has gained nothing by their failure, except experience, and if we do not turn that advantage, Mr. FARNELL said very fairly, "If they wanted to encourage people who had no capital, but only their labour, they would, to carry out the argument, have to make those people a present of the land." Indeed, if we merely wanted to use the land fund as a charity, we ought to go further. We ought to fence the land in for them, build a hut, start them with a dray and bullocks, and put in the first crop. But our policy has not been to use the land fund as a charity, but to get men with the skill and the needed money to go on to it and make permanent homes. Strictly speaking, it is not the poor man but the small agricultural capitalist that meets our wants, and that is likely to realise our expectations. The cost of the land is only one out of many charges that have to be incurred by a man who takes up a selection to work it, and it is by no means the heaviest charge. If from the first we had fixed on a fair deposit for the land, so far from its checking bounds selection, we should have had more of it than we have at present.

The second great evil that has resulted from making the payment too easy in the first instance has been that we have tempted squatters to become selectors. There would have been far less dummying if a cash payment of a pound, or even of ten shillings, had been asked for. But it paid men to risk the loss of five shillings, or even deliberately to forfeit it, to shun the free selector for three years. Where the squatters have succeeded in getting hold of conditional purchases, they have got the land on easier terms than they could by any other process. Improvement purchases, voluntary land orders, and even auction sales, are all much more expensive arrangements than paying five shillings an acre, and getting perpetual credit for the balance, even allowing for the minimum of improvements. It is not to be denied that we have tempted dummying by the easy payments intended for the poor man.

In the face of all this the Assembly has determined to make the payments for the future easier still, and this is done in the hope that the concession will always go to the right sort of man, and never to the wrong sort of man, and that all possibility of abuse will be prevented by the land courts. It is hoping for a great deal, especially after our past experience, and it is hoping against all reasonable probability. Under the existing law we have alienated at least four times as much land as was really wanted by the present population for bona-fide settlement. Under the new law we shall certainly alienate land very much faster, and without there being any proportionate increase in the population. We may count quite certainly on the land going off. Can we count as certainly on the selectors staying on?

Mr. TRICKER did not see his way to extend to the Secularists the privileges which are accorded to the Churches under the seventeenth clause of the Education Act, and this is no more than everybody anticipated. The Secular Association itself could not have expected that its appeal would be successful. The delegation, to which a reply was sent a few days ago, was probably moved by a desire to congratulate the MINISTER for his refusal to make concessions to the Churches rather than by an expectation of getting concessions for itself. The Ministerial refusal which gave so much disappointment to the Bishop naturally gave satisfaction to the Secularists. If the MINISTER had acted differently to the one delegation, a much stronger claim might have been urged by the other. A first departure from the plain meaning of the Act would have furnished at least a plausible ground for urging a second. But after discouraging the representatives of the Churches, even if he had the power to do so the MINISTER could hardly have gone out of his way to comply with the demands of the Secularists. Apart also from the religious aspect of the question, there was much in the contention that what the Secularists had to offer the schools already possess. The Bishop and his friends really came with something new, and with something which would doubtless have been welcomed by a large number, the Bishop himself claims by a large majority, of the parents of the children who attend the schools. The Secularists do not claim to represent a majority, or even a very considerable minority. However much they may hope that the many will flock to their standard by-and-bye, they do not pretend to represent the multitude now. The smallness of their number forms no reason why they should suffer injustice or loss; but the fact that the ecclesiastical delegation had num-

bers on its side entitled it to a hearing which it would not otherwise have possessed. As the head of the delegation which waited upon the MINISTER, Dr. BARRY may have represented a much smaller number than he claimed to represent. We believe that he did. But there can be no question that a very considerable number of persons would be glad to see religion taught in the training school, and to have the ordinary day school opened with singing and prayer.

The clergy and others who take the view that has been urged by Dr. BARRY may say not only that they have some thousands of persons on their side, but that they are asking for the importation of an element with which the schools are not supplied. There are things to which we attach very great importance, they say, and these things are not found in the schools. But so much could hardly be said by the Secularists. All their wants have been anticipated. They believe, they tell us, in teaching children cleanliness, regularity of habit, temperance, industry, economy, veracity, respectfulness for superior excellence, courtesy and kindness, self-denial, the laws of health, and the cultivation of qualities which give the greatest happiness to the greatest number. As to the importance of such teaching there is not the least dispute. But the MINISTER points out that the subjects which the Secular Association would take up are already taught by the schoolmasters. In the instructions to that body it is pointed out that "it is the duty of all teachers to impress upon the minds of their pupils the principles of morality, truth, justice, and patriotism; to teach them to avoid idleness, profanity, and falsehood; to instruct them in the principles of a free government, and to train them up in a true comprehension of the rights, duties, and dignities of citizenship." From the Secularist point of view a more excellent line than this could hardly be followed. This is just what Mr. RYKES, and no doubt the majority of the travelling public, desire to have done. The report adds, their other agencies, instead of suffering, have received a fresh impulse.

#### NEWS OF THE DAY.

The Imported Stock Act Amendment Bill was read the first time in the Legislative Council last night. The Victorian Coal Company's Bill was read the third time, and the Mining Act Further Amendment Bill was read the second time and passed through Committee without amendment. The debate upon Mr. Sturt's motion having reference to the annexation of New Guinea, federation, and the influx of criminals was resumed and concluded. The previous question, which had been moved by Mr. W. Campbell, was put and carried on division by 21 votes to four.

The Legislative Assembly may at length be compelled on having got through with the Land Bill in committee of the whole. The main discussion last evening was on the new clause on the payment of Mr. Farnell to retain the condition of conditional land. This was negatived, but further amendments by the hon. Minister to prevent the clause being abrogated were agreed to. The remaining recommended clauses were disposed of, the bill was reported to the House, and the report was agreed to, with amendments from both sides of the House. The third reading of the bill was fixed for Tuesday next.

The business which the Government intend to proceed with in the Legislative Assembly this afternoon, will be the second reading of the Municipal Gas Bill, and after that the second reading of the Public Watering Places Bill. The Civil Service Bill will probably be laid upon the table to-night. The bill is in print, but some alterations were made by Mr. Sturt in a few of the clauses yesterday, and it will be ready in time to be presented to the Assembly after the meeting of the House this afternoon. The Local Government Bill is not likely, we are informed, to be introduced this session.

At the meeting of the Executive Council on Tuesday, it was determined that the office of Inspector of Anatomy, in connection with the Medical School at the University, should be dispensed with, as the Government considered it was no longer necessary.

The second match between the Australian Eleven and an eleven of All England for the cricket supremacy was continued at Lord's on Tuesday. The Australians in their first innings had put 220 runs together on the previous day, which was showy, and the Englishmen had lost three wickets for 90 runs. On Tuesday the weather was propitious for good scoring, and the Englishmen, continuing their innings, made an excellent stand, scoring 379 runs, or 150 in advance of the Australian total. Of this number 148 were contributed by Steel, who was badly missed early in his innings. The Australians followed, and when the stumps were drawn had lost four wickets for 73 runs.

The committee appointed in London to receive applications from persons desirous of becoming candidates for the position of Professor of Classics at the Sydney University, the office made vacant by the death of Dr. Badham, have unanimously recommended the appointment of Mr. Walter Scott, of Balil and Merton, Oxford; and a cablegram to that effect was received some days ago by the Government from the Agent-General. A cablegram was follows:—"Out of nineteen candidates, committee unanimously recommend Walter Scott, of Balil and Merton, Oxford; highest qualifications, most distinguished scholarship; will report fully by mail."

The attention of the Chief Inspector of Stock having been drawn to a telegram from Brisbane which ap-

peared in our issue of the 19th instant, with reference to the death of a large number of sheep in Queensland from catarrh, he telephoned to the Chief Inspector of Stock at Brisbane, asking him to send particulars of the outbreak of the disease. In reply, the following telegram has been received:—"Castrich appeared in flock of Down sheep travelling for feed in coast cattle country. It appears a pure case of spontaneous catarrh was never known on run or flock from which they came, but the same disease was stamped out in same district 14 years ago. No sheep in since. I leave to-day for scene of the disease, and will report." The telegram is signed "P. H. Gordon," and is dated 21st instant.

The Agent for Immigration has brought under the notice of the Colonial Secretary an extract from the last annual report of the committee of the City Night Refuge and Soup Kitchen, in which it was stated that a considerable number of newly-arrived immigrants, who were in destitute circumstances, had recently availed themselves of the benefits of this charity, and at the same time has pointed out that this statement is not correct. He has obtained from the manager of the City Night Refuge a nominal list of 21 persons, represented as immigrants who applied at the institution for relief during the period from 1st to June 30 of the present year, and having carefully examined the official records of all arrivals of immigrants for several months prior to February 1 and to July 30, he has found that the statement is not correct, the names of the alleged immigrants is recorded in the register. The exception is that of a young man, 18 years of age, who arrived here by the steamship "Aberdeenshire," who was hired from the ship, and received a passage draft for £12. He arrived in the colony on the 3rd February, and obtained soup-kitchen relief nearly three months afterwards.

In a paragraph published yesterday containing the particulars of a contract accepted for the construction of No. 2 section of the Illawarra Railway, it was inadvertently stated in the description given of the section that it "includes about 12 miles of Messrs. C. and E. Milar's abandoned contract." This contract was not abandoned, but a distance of 9 miles of it was relinquished according to an agreement entered into with the Government. The other portion of the contract is now nearly finished. The Cook's River Bridge would have been completed long ago had the material for the superstructure been at hand. Rapid progress is being made towards the completion of the bridge over George's River; and it is probable that the first section of the railway will be ready for opening in about two or three months from the present time.

The borough council of Leichhardt resolved at its last meeting that a sum of £17,000 should be obtained in the London market; and also that a deputation should wait on the Colonial Secretary to ask him to introduce a bill into Parliament to enable the council to borrow £50,000. Amongst the correspondence read was a letter from the Colonial Secretary giving his Excellency the Governor's approval of the council's borrowing an additional £13,000.

The weather yesterday morning was fine but cloudy, and there was little or no wind. Towards noon, however, a light breeze sprang up from west south-west, and gradually veered round to south, and increased

to a moderate breeze, which continued until late in the evening. The wind then shifted to about south-west, blowing cold; the sky was overcast, and rain seemed imminent.

In consequence of arrears in taxes the Mayor of Sydney has been compelled to issue warrants for their recovery. If debtors desire to avoid legal expenses it will be well for them to pay what they owe.

The first annual meeting in connection with the Congregational Jubilee Fund was held last evening in the Pitt-street church. There was a large attendance.

In the afternoon a conference of Ministers and church elders was held, at which arrangements were matured for the evening's meeting.

The Rev. James Jaffier, LL.B., presided at both meetings.

The full report of the proceedings elsewhere will show what has been accomplished, and what remains to be done.

It is to be briefly stated that the fund was inaugurated last year to commemorate the introduction of Congregationalism to Australia, 50 years ago.

At the closing meeting of a series held in the Pitt-street church on July 19 of last year, it was decided that the promised contributions to the fund had reached a total of £11,270.

Subsequently the total amount of promises was largely increased.

The most gratifying items of the report presented last night were that

whereas the original estimate to meet debts on church party, and to establish the minister's retiring fund, was about £20,000, the total promise amount to sole

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ing, and she may recover, but she is still in a critical condition.

#### SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

ADELAIDE, WEDNESDAY.

Mr. John Crozier, jun., of Port Lincoln, by Countryman out of Deceptive, died at Lockley on Tuesday, of inflammation. He was bred by Messrs. Robertson Brothers, at Turretfield, sold as a yearling for 420 guineas, and bought by Mr. Crozier in November for 800 guineas.

The Lunacy Commission met to-day and gave their formal agreement to the report, which, however, will not be ready for presentation to Parliament for several days. The commission was appointed on June 14, last year, on account of several charges of ill-treatment of patients in one of the asylums.

Elder's Wool and Produce Company have declared a dividend of 10 per cent, and carry forward a balance of £17,500.

A deputation waited upon the Commissioner for Works urging the extension of the railway to Blyth, Crystal Brook. The Commissioner said he would certainly recommend the continuation asked for, but at present the Government did not intend to ask the House to continue the line, because they did not consider they were in a position to recommend the construction of lines of convenience.

The Intercolonial Conference of the Y. M. C. Associations was held in the hall of the association to-day. Mr. R. G. Wilkinson in the chair. A large number of delegates were present, and addresses were delivered on various topics of special interest. The proceedings were of an interesting nature.

The quarterly meeting of the Adelaide Chamber of Commerce was held this afternoon. The chairman, Mr. J. W. Cotton, mentioned that the committee having found there was no law by which captains could sell unclaimed goods in order to recoup them for freight, after consultation with the Attorney-General, that Minister had promised to introduce a Bill into Parliament relating to the loss of goods for light.

At the sitting of the Legislative Assembly to-day, evidence was given by the secretary of the Reformation, and by Sister Saint John, who had taught the Catholic children, as to the inmates, and the conditions in which complaints had been made that their faith had been tampered with. No one, however, did it appear from the evidence of the children that an influence of an objectionable nature had been brought to bear on them. Any change of religion is stated to have been due to the individual wish of a few inmates. It transpired that the children of both the Catholic and Protestant faiths sang Moody and Sankey hymns.

Arrived: Birkgate (a.), from Sydney; Tenterden (a.), from Newcastle; St. Mawur (a.), for Melbourne and Sydney; Lily, for Sydney.

#### NORTHERN TERRITORY.

#### PORT DARWIN, THURSDAY.

The steamer Taiwan has arrived from Hongkong. Passengers and Master Williams, Misses Williams (2), and Master William.

The Flying-steam-launch has returned from the Victoria River, and reports that the river is impracticable for navigation for up because of shoals. There is a tremendous tidal current alternates ways, causing whirlpools, which rendered the launch powerless. The party were compelled to land the stores and form a depot. They were much disappointed at not being able to proceed further.

#### TASMANIA.

#### ROBERT, WEDNESDAY.

The jury could not agree in the case of Henry Stocks, who was charged with the murder of his wife and children, and the prisoner was remanded till next session. The majority of the jury were in favour of a verdict of guilty.

The Gulf of Carpentaria (a.) arrived at 2 o'clock this morning. She left Plymouth at the end of May, and brings immigrants and passengers to Hobart, and passing for Melbourne and Sydney.

The Secretary of Mines reports that the mining industry is in a good condition, although many failures of speculative companies have occurred during the past year. The exports of gold are not accurately known, as large quantities have been taken to Victoria privately. The exports of gold this year are about equal to the quantity last year. The exports in tin will probably very much larger. A large area of ground remains unexplored, owing to dense scrub and heavy timber.

#### NEW ZEALAND.

#### WELLINGTON, WEDNESDAY.

The half-yearly meeting of the Colonial Bank was held to-day. The directors' report recommends the payment of a dividend at the rate of 7 per cent, and £10,000 has been carried forward.

#### THE GENERAL ELECTION IN NEW ZEALAND.

#### [BY TELEGRAPH.]

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

#### WELLINGTON, WEDNESDAY.

The general election took place yesterday throughout the colony, and intense excitement prevailed at all the leading centres of population. The whole of the Ministry were re-elected, with the exception of the Hon. Thomas Dick, Colonial Secretary and Minister of Education, who was defeated by Mr. D. Stewart for Dunedin West. Sir G. M. O'Kearney, Speaker of the House of Representatives; Mr. W. Montgomery, member for Akaroa, and Mr. J. Stewart, member for Waimate, are among those re-elected. Mr. J. Sheehan has been defeated for Napier by Mr. Ormond. Sir Julius Vogel was returned for Christchurch North by the largest majority ever known at any previous election in the colony. Messrs. Ballance and Stout have also been elected. The new Parliament comprises 54 members of the last Parliament, of whom eleven were returned unopposed. The relative position of political parties in the colony will probably be as follows:—Sir Julius Vogel, 51; the Hon. H. A. Atkinson (Premier), 30; Sir George Grey, 15; and the remainder are doubtful.

#### DEATH of the REV. W. HENDERSON.

#### [BY TELEGRAPH.]

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

#### MELBOURNE, WEDNESDAY.

The Rev. W. Henderson, Presbyterian minister of St. Andrew's Kirk, Ballarat, died to-day, at the age of 58. He was educated at Glasgow University, and arrived in Victoria in 1853, in company with the Rev. Adam Cairns. He was at first ministered at Williamstown, and was removed to Ballarat in 1868, where he established St. Andrew's Church. In 1878 he decamped in strong terms from the pulpit the Black Wednesday proceedings of the Berry Government. The Rev. W. Henderson had never been in good health since returning from the Presbyterian Council at Edinburgh, where he represented the Church of Victoria.

#### RAILWAY MEETING AT BATHURST.

#### [BY TELEGRAPH.]

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

#### BATHURST, WEDNESDAY.

At the Town Hall, last night, a public meeting was held to advocate the construction of the projected railway to Wanganella via Nyngan and Cobar. The attendance was not large, the weather being unsatisfactory. The Mayor, Dr. Spencer, occupied the chair, and spoke in favour of the extension of the line to Wanganella, advocating that branch on the grounds that it would open up a large mineral district and provide a market for western produce; also that, on account of the flat nature of the country, the line would be easily constructed, while the distance was shorter than by any other proposed line. Mr. Lewis Lloyd, M.L.A., moved the following resolution:—“That the Government be requested to construct a line to Wanganella from Nyngan.”

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#### PARKES, WEDNESDAY.

The first snow ever seen in Parkes fell at 12 o'clock this afternoon, when it came down accompanied by a gale, which speedily whitened the roofs of houses and the surface of the ground. Brisk snow-balling took place for a short time, which was highly appreciated by numbers of young natives of the district who had never seen snow for the winter.

Much interest is expressed at the extension of a portion of the provisions of the County Towns Water and Sewage Act to Forbes.

#### HOUSKIE, WEDNESDAY.

At Mangurndi the weather is calm and dull; 30 points of rain have fallen, and the river is 16 feet and is of rain; river 15 feet, but now stationary. Walgett, calm, rain, and clear; 18 points of rain fell yesterday. The Namoi has risen eight feet but is not overflowing. At Boulia the river is low. Gwydir West the river is low. The river reports easterly winds and cloudy weather; 15 points of rain have fallen and the river has risen one foot, but now stationary. The weather is calm, rain, and clear.

At Bourke the weather is calm, rain, and clear.

#### PARLIAMENT OF VICTORIA.

[BY TELEGRAPH.]

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

#### MELBOURNE, WEDNESDAY.

In the Legislative Council to-day the Mining on Private Property Bill was further debated and read the second time.

The Legislative Assembly Mr. Berry, in replying to Mr. E. L. Cox, said that the Government would obtain a decided expression of opinion as to the supposed smallpox, and take most energetic steps to prevent its spreading. Dr. Porter, the new health officer, would to-morrow be directed to report respecting the disease. Mr. C. Young moved the second reading of the bill to separate the Scots Church from the Presbyterian Church of Victoria. He claimed that the property in Collins-street belonged to the Scots, having been vested in them by a grant of Sir George Gipps, and they were entitled to separate because of the bad treatment of the Presbyterians towards the Rev. Charles Strong. Mr. Harper moved the adjournment of the House, which was agreed to, and the House therewith adjourned.

#### PARLIAMENT OF QUEENSLAND.

[BY TELEGRAPH.]

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

#### BRISBANE, WEDNESDAY.

In the Legislative Council to-day, a bill gave effect in Queensland to probate and letters of administration granted in the other colonies, was read the first time. The Public Officers Fees Bill was read the second time. The Supply Bill of £250,000 was passed through all its stages.

At the Assembly, Mr. Stevens moved the adjournment of the House to call attention to the rabbit pest. He said these vermin were only 100 miles from our border, and might be expected in Queensland in a little more than a year. He considered that fencing was the best method of preventing their advance, and thought a few thousand pounds might be well spent by the Government in checking them. The Minister of Lands agreed to the magnitude of the danger, and said the Government would give the matter their attention and early consideration. The Public Officers Fees Bill was read the third time and passed. The Members expressed Bill, and Bill provided for the contribution of the expense of British Jurisdiction in the colonies, and the Pacific, were introduced and read the first time. The address to His Majesty the Queen in reference to the Federal Council, was formally adopted. Mr. Griffith moved the second reading of the Triennial Parliaments Bill. He considered that long Parliaments were a mistake. The last Parliament qualified its usefulness, and during the last 12 months of its existence it did not possess the confidence of the people. Queensland and Tasmania were the only Australian colonies where Parliaments endured for five years. If practicable, he believed one year would be the proper duration of Parliament. Mr. Morehead said the Premier was not in earnest in proposing this measure. He strongly objected to the bill, on the ground that it would not take effect during the present Parliament, while the Payment of Members Bill would. The Premier wanted a five years' Parliament of his own, and would prevent anyone else having one after him. A lengthy debate ensued, and the second reading was eventually carried on a party division by 26 to 18.

#### SOUTH AUSTRALIAN PARLIAMENT.

[BY TELEGRAPH.]

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

#### ADELAIDE, WEDNESDAY.

Only the Assembly sat to-day. Dr. Cockburn moved that, in the opinion of this House, it is desirable that a bill be introduced making provision for the payment of members of Parliament. This was carried without any speech except that of the mover, who did not expand the details, but suggested that the amount of remuneration should be £200 a year, by a division of 23 to 14; all the Ministers, except the Premier, voting in favour of the motion. It is understood that the Government will introduce the bill, having ascertained that there is an absolute majority in the House in favour of the principle of payment of members, the attempts to carry which into effect have been made almost annually during the last ten years. It was resolved to have a flying survey made of a railway route to Silverton, between Carrington and Port Augusta, and a geological report upon York's Peninsula, particularly in regard to aesian water supply. Further debate ensued upon the free education motion, and that the establishment of a system of state schools, but no vote was taken. The Education Bill, for the withdrawal of which the Government ask, was referred to its mover, that unless it be withdrawn they will oppose it at present, promising, however, to introduce this session another Bill dealing more satisfactorily with the matter. Mr. Grattan, the mover, refuses, however, to withdraw the bill, which will probably be negative. Mr. Caldwell intends to move a fortnight hence, for the classification of land and abolition of the auction test.

#### COUNTRY NEWS.

[BY TELEGRAPH.]

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.)

#### NEWCASTLE, WEDNESDAY.

James Troy, the seaman on board the Morpeth, who met with an accident on board some 10 days since, died late last night. An inquest will be held to-morrow.

The tradesmen's annual dress ball at the City Hall to-night is largely attended.

The weather has again changed. Light rain commenced at noon, and has continued at intervals since. It is now raining steadily. The sea is smooth.

The manager of the Wauy Tin-mining Company, Limited, reports the yield of ore for the week ended 19th instant to be 5 tons.

The manager of the Prince of Wales and Old Poverty Gold-mining Company, Ltd., at Wauy, reports that the mine has produced 100 tons of gold.

The manager of the Wauy Tin-mining Company, Limited, reports that the yield of ore for the week ended 19th instant to be 5 tons.

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